

Academy walls, which are of a character to do the Institution no credit.

One of the greatest difficulties the Academy has to contend with, is a want of ground, and when it was located at Annapolis, an expectation was held out that all facilities would be extended by the citizens as well as by the State.

While, however, the citizens are benefitted in many ways by the presence of the Academy, there seems to be a disposition to prevent the enlargement of the grounds by a spirit of avarice, that must sooner or later re-act against the holders of the property required for the enlargement.

We are willing to pay, on the part of the General Government, a fair valuation, but I cannot, as the representative of the Government, agree to pay the excessive demands made upon us. The matter now rests with your Honorable Bodies to decide whether it is worth while to pass laws enabling the General Government to purchase property at a fair valuation. I would most respectfully recommend that a law be enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland whereby the title to any real estate, in or about Annapolis, which the United States may desire as additions to the Naval Academy, may be condemned, and with the possession thereof, be vested in the United States of America, upon payment to the respective proprietors thereof of the sums so awarded by the law as the value of the said real estate.

It must strike your Honorable Bodies that the retention of this Institution in Annapolis is of more importance to this city and the State of Maryland, than the interests of a few individuals who desire to obtain a most exorbitant price for their property.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID D. PORTER,

Vice Admiral and Supt. N. A.

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. Thomas,

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The hour of 12½ o'clock having arrived, the Senate of Maryland appeared upon the floor of the House of Delegates, when the committee of citizens from Baltimore were introduced to the General Assembly by Mr. Jones, of the Joint Committee of the General Assembly, when

Mr. Spencer, chairman of the committee, presented the following petition of T. J. Magruder and six thousand other citizens of Baltimore: